

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2865

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON BY ROK AMBASSADOR MOON

1. AMB MOON CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON JULY 8 AT 10:10 A.M. DURING CORDIAL 45-MINUTE CONVERSATION, GOV SCRANTON OUTLINED HIS VIEWS REGARDING ATTITUDES ON KOREA WHICH HE HAD GAINED DURING RECENT TRIP TO AFRICA. ADDITIONALLY, IN CONNECTION WITH QUESTION OF PRIORITY FOR FRIENDLY ITEM AND RESOLUTION ON KOREA AT 31ST UNGA, SCRANTON SAID IT WOULD BE MISTAKE FOR US TO MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO SEEK PRIORITY BEFORE WE HAVE TAKEN OUR POLITICAL INITIATIVE AND HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS.

SCRANTON EXPRESSED ANOTHER CONVICTION THAT THE LONGER THE NORTH KOREANS MAINTAIN THEIR ADAMANT STAND, THE BETTER OFF WE ARE LIKELY TO BE. IN THESE CONNECTIONS, SCRANTON UNDERLINED THAT THE EMPHASIS IN OUR SIDE'S APPROACHES TO NON-ALIGNED HAS BEEN ON AVOIDANCE OF CONFRONTATION.

2. SCRANTON SAID THAT IN AFRICA HE HAD SEEN PEOPLE AT TOP LEVEL AS WELL AS THOSE ON DOWN THE LINE. SCRANTON DID NOT FORESEE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE ASSUMING MUCH LEADERSHIP ON KOREA. SOME, HOWEVER, HAD SHOWN UNDERSTANDING OF NEED TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH IN RESOLVING KOREAN QUESTION:

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(A) SIERRA LEONE -- LEADERSHIP DETERMINED TO THINK ISSUES

THROUGH. IS WILLING TO TAKE AN INDEPENDENT STAND. WILL
NOT SUPPORT NORTH KOREA. AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OR AN ABSTENTION.

(B) SENEGAL -- A HARD ROAD HERE. SENGOR IS TREMENDOUSLY
IMPRESSED BY KIM IL SUNG.

(C) UPPER VOLTA -- WILL TAKE NO LEADERSHIP ROLE AT ALL.
A LITTLE FED UP WITH ALL THE PRESSURE FROM BOTH SIDES.

(D) GABON -- WILL BE ALL RIGHT ON KOREA.

(E) TANZANIA -- NYERERE TOLD SCRANTON THAT HE HONESTLY BELIEVED
THERE COULD BE NO RESOLUTION OF MATTERS ON KOREAN PENINSULA
WITHOUT TALKS BETWEEN THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED.
THIS VIEW IS OUR ONE HOPE THAT TANZANIA MAY BE REASONABLE
ON KOREA. THE TANZANIANS ADMIRE THE CHINESE.

(F) MOZAMBIQUE -- A COMPLETE MINUS ON KOREA.

(G) SWAZILAND -- THEY THINK IT THROUGH. A CONSIDERED YES.
THEY WON'T TAKE ANY INITIATIVES, THOUGH.

(H) BOTSWANA -- HAS BEEN NEGATIVE. WHEN SCRANTON SUGGESTED THAT
NORTH-SOUTH TALKS WERE A WAY OUT OF THE DILEMMA, KHAMA SAID
IN FRONT OF HIS MINISTERS: "WELL, I'LL STICK MY NECK OUT.
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN DO IT."

(I) ZAMBIA -- KAUNDA SAID SAME THING AS KHAMA IN FRONT OF HIS
MINISTERS.

(J) CAMEROON -- A REASONED DECISION. THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE
WITH US, BUT THEY ARE VERY STRONGLY NONALIGNED. COLOMBO WILL
HAVE AN EFFECT ON THEM.

(K) IVORY COAST -- WILL BE ALL RIGHT ON KOREA.

3. MOON EXPRESSED MUCH APPRECIATION THAT SCRANTON HAD TAKEN UP
KOREAN ISSUE WITH ALL ELEVEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES HE HAD VISITED.
MOON, WHO HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE TIMING AND MODALITIES
OF PRESENTING OUR SIDE'S CASE IN THE 31ST UNGA, TOOK FULL
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NOTE OF SCRANTON'S VIEWS ON PRIORITY.
SCRANTON

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